claims first. All these things have to be considered before it can be said that the Government are not giving due representation to all communities. Government are doing all that is possible. I may mention for the information of Mr. Martandan Vaidayan that Mr. Panikar, the I. M. S. gentleman, to whom he referred, a man who was serving in the war and who is a man of qualifications, has now been appointed as an Assistant Surgeon.

In regard to the Ezhava Bill, the Select Committee's report has been received and the subject is on the agenda for the next meeting. It lies with the Legislative Council to get through it and pass it. The question of co-opting a member or more of the community for the purpose of this Bill is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. Padmanabha Panikkar referred to *teendal*.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.—I referred to one point more. I requested that Ezhava applicants might be exempted from the operation of retrenchment.

Dewan.—It is not a practical proposition. Retrenchment applies to everybody. How can we exempt Ezhavas? Unless we create fresh appointments, we cannot do anything for them. When fresh appointments are made, the claims of your people will also be considered. Government have issued circulars and orders to the effect that due representation should be given to communities which are not properly represented in the public service. The list of eligibles that you gave me has been sent to the heads of departments and a return has been called for in order to know the number of Ezhavas who have been entertained. We do the same in regard to other applicants coming from unrepresented communities.

In regard to schools, we have this year again thrown open thirteen schools to all communities. There are still no doubt about twenty or more schools. But this is not a problem which could be solved so easily or soon.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.—In making enquiries for throwing open schools to all communities, Government may also consult the representatives of the communities affected; because, when the revenue authorities and educational authorities decide the matter, it will be more or less an *exparte* decision.

Dewan.—In a good many cases, they can be, and are, consulted. I know a case in South Travancore, in which the Peishkar consulted the people of the locality. They said that they had no objection to throw open the existing school house itself, if certain alterations were made in respect of it.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.—I refer not to the people who raise objections but to the people who want the schools to be thrown open to them.

Dewan.—They may also be consulted. It is a matter in which greater promptitude is desirable, and I shall impress this on the officers concerned.

Mr. Padmanabha Panikkar referred to the vernacular boys' school at Ambalapuzha and to the vernacular girls' school at Kallarkode. I will enquire about them. This is the first time I have heard about them.

Mr. N. Kumaran Asan.—It is an old complaint.

Dewan.—I shall have the matter enquired into.

As regards further fee concession to girls in English Schools, I shall consider the question. As regards the extension of fee concession to Ezhava students in the Law College, the matter will be examined.

150. Grant of certain concessions to the Muslim community.

Mr. H. K. Maiteen Pillai (Member, Nominated) after thanking the Government for the various facilities afforded to the members of his community for the wider spread of education among them, pointed out the necessity of making the study of Arabic compulsory for Mahomedan students in English schools. As the time at his disposal was too short to deal with the various needs of his community at sufficient

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length, he said that he agreed with all that was going to be spoken on the subject by Mr. P. S. Mahomed. The Member urged the need for declaring Friday a holiday for Mahomedans througout the State. The two hours' leave granted to Mahomedans in the service at present did not enable them to discharge their religious duties properly. The fate of the Mahomedans who had to attend courts of law on Fridays was even worse. They were practically precluded from attending to their religious observances on Fridays as the courts happened to be located 6 or 7 miles away from the nearest mosque. In the case of those Mahomedans who were parties to a suit, the two hours' leave was of no use, as it was not possible for them to return in time to the court after performing their religious rites within the allotted time. The Member, therefore, concluded by praying for Friday being declared a holiday throughout the State and for remission of fees being granted in the case of applications for the adjournment of cases posted for hearing on Fridays.

151. Suggestions regarding the advancement of the Muslim community.

Mr. K. A. Pichavava Sahib (Member, Ambalapuzha Taluk) submitted that, as was known to the Government, the social and political condition of the Muslim community at present was not satisfactory. The concessions prayed for by them were not so many or so great as were demanded by, and granted to, other communities. Economically and commercially they were not a backward community and it was noteworthy that more revenue was derived by Government from them than from other communities. He, therefore, made the following requests for the consideration of the Government.

(1) The Koran kept in law courts for the use of parties and witnesses should be removed, as that holy book ought not to be touched by any one whose body was not pure.

(2) The Lajnathul Mahomedan Association, started and conducted by the Mahomedans of Alleppey to advance the material prospects of the community, should be recognised and consulted by the Government in the solution of all questions affecting the community.

(3) Two Mahomedan non-official members should be appointed to the Economic Development Board. At present there were two members who belonged to one and the same family.

(4) The principle of communal representation should be adopted in the appointment of Mahomedan members to the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. The Member said that the present system of nomination of Mahomedan members was highly unsatisfactory and that certain men unfit for membership were being nominated as members. There was much room for improvement in regard to the selection of members from his community.

(5) The following five Mahomedan holidays, *viz.*, Ramzan, Bakrid, Muharram, Barat and Barawafat should be declared public holidays.

(6) More appointments should be thrown open to Mahomedans in the State service. The Member pointed out that in that respect Government were partial to other communities to the great prejudice of Mahomedans.

(7) Liquor shops in the midst of Mahomedan quarters should be removed.

152. Suggestions for removing the disabilities of the Muslim subjects of the State.

Mr. P. S. Mahomed (Member, Nominated) complained of the inadequacy of the educational concessions already granted to his community and prayed for further concessions. He represented that more Munshies and Koran teachers should be appointed, that an Arabic examination should be conducted through the Mahomedan Inspector, and that the extra evening hour fixed for teaching Arabic should be dropped, the necessary provision for the teaching of that subject being made in the general time-table. In the case of Munshies and Koran teachers, he suggested the desirability of delegating to the Mahomedan Inspector certain powers in regard to transfer, leave, acting arrangements, etc., as there was great delay sometimes in making acting arrangements and even in the appointment of permanent incumbents. He also pleaded for grants being allowed to the Arabic Munshies employed in unrecognised private schools, as well as half-fee concessions to the Mahomedan pupils.

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